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LETTERS OF BENJAMIN WEST.

London, Newman Street Aug^t 7th 1800

Dear Brother,

Thos. Cuthbert, the young gentleman you favoured with a letter of introduction to me, being to return to Philad^a I have desired he would take charge of this letter to you. He has but recently appeared in London, having spent most of his time in Ireland since his arrival in Europe; this has prevented me the opportunity of showing him those marks of attention that I should otherways have done from your recommendation, and his own modest, and sensible deportment.

My son R. L. Wests return to England from your side the water was somewhat unexpected, for when he left this country, I had calculated on his residing some years in America. His situation in the State of New York, was made very unpleasant to him, for had he remained there, and not have noticed the fraudulent proceedings of a person that had a commission to purchase Land in that state for a friend of mine in England (and that to a great amount) he felt—after discovering the fraud—that had he, not have returned to England to explain what was the proceedings of that agent, that he would participate in the guilt: he therefore lost no time to lay the whole before me, which does honour to his principles and activity. It was my son's intention to have spent the last winter with you, and his friends in Philad^a; but the disappointment to him and myself has been reciprocal. I must suppose his passing through that city would appear somewhat singular to our friends, not to have seen him, but when they know the cause, I am persuaded they will honour his fortitude, and his love of justice; he has informed me that M^r Cuthbert takes charge of his letter to you, in which he states to you the cause of his return to

England, whether he will revisit America or not, is at present uncertain, if he should, your advice is what he will most esteem; he expresses with affection the attention he received from yourself and family; and it afforded great satisfaction the account he gave me of his journey through Pennsylvania, and interview with you, and has often expressed himself, that had he found America, and Americans, what he experienced while with you, he should have left that country with a greater desire of returning to it. I am sorry to say, that the Land jobbers in that country have caused many from Europe to regret they ever visited the country, their deceptive principles have brought a stigma on the American character, which the fair, honourable, and just men among you will have a long labour to do away.

I much lament that my son did not see M^r Drinker that he might have inspected the purchase I made of Land under his friendship at the recommendation of Doc^r Edwards; for on my sons passing through the neighbourhood of that country, I made the purchase in, a Land surveyor gave him a description of the quality of the Land in the District where I made the purchase, and from that description the land is not of that quality to fully justify the purchase—but of this I hope there is a mistake. Nevertheless it will be a satisfaction to me to ascertain the truth, and I shall esteem it a favour, if you have an opportunity to investigate the fact, that you will transmit to me the result [?] enquire.

We have one of the hottest summers, I ever experienced in England, tho to me, I confess it is agreeable, having in general too much wet weather in this country. It does not agree so well with M^{rs} West, as with me, her health is but indifferant; she desires to be remembered to yourself and family, and I beg my love to all.

To Doc^r Morris, W^m Savory, and Doc^r Shelcross present my respects, and inform the later that his Brother

the Capⁿ was to have dined with me yesterday in company with M^r Cuthbert but was disappointed in seeing him,

I am Dear Brother with great affection
Your Obliged

W^m West Esq^r

Benjⁿ West.

To Hannah West,—Widow of my Brother William West, of Upper Darby, Delewar County Pennsylvania—or if demised to her Heirs at Law.

With this paper I enclose the statement of Queries as to the estate of Shiplake in Oxfordshire—and the estate at Banghurst in Hampshire.

There having been a multitude of embarrassments arising from the situation of the two estates, as you will see by the Queries which are stated. From those and other circumstances occasioned by the attorney in whose hands all the Papers were concerning the two Estates—has been the cause of the procrastination attendant on the business. But that attorney being dead, I have nearly come into possession of all the Deeds and Papers requisite for settling the estates: and have placed them in the hands of Richard Phillips, a respectable gentleman in the Law—and of the community of Friends, who with myself, are desirously anxious to have the business of those Estates happily terminated: which now much depend on the promptitude with which the points in the Queries are answered and forwarded to me in London.

Now My Dear Sister, have the goodness to make my affectionate regard to all my Relatives—and I shall be much obliged, by being informed, if any of my Brothers and Sisters are living, and in which part of America they and their children are, not having heard from, or of them for many years.

My two sons are well, my eldest has a Daughter and my Youngest son a Boy; but my Dear M^{rs} West has much declined in her health—they are at present in town with me, and request to be affectionately remem-

bered to you, and their relations, and to whom present my affections also.

With friendship and with sincerity

I am My Dear Sister

Yours truly

London June 20th 1814

Benj^m West.

Newman Street London,

October 15th 1814.

Dear Sister

I hope that the papers relating to your property in this Country, which I sent you in May last by a private hand, have been duly received. The Lawyer whom I have employed in your affairs since Mr. Dean's death is now with me on the subject of a proposal made by a tenant of a small part of the Oxfordshire property to purchase it at a fair price, and the Lawyer is going to Shiplake in the ensueing Week to endeavour to arrange the terms. Until the information required by the papers sent you in May is transmitted to me, no effectual sale can be made, because proper legal Deeds of Conveyance cannot be signed to a Purchaser. If therefore the treaty proceeds, the sum fixed for the purchase must be invested in the Bank on Government Funds in mine and the purchasers names (or persons named by us) there to remain until I am lawfully enabled to sign the Conveyances. This will sufficiently explain to you the cause of my present application that the information required by the papers sent you should be immediately obtained, by your employing your Lawyer in America to attend to it, and the result should be without loss of time transmitted to me to be laid before the Lawyer I have employed, that the whole of the property may be brought to sale as soon as can be, as Land is becoming of less value in this country owing to the recent great fall of the price of Corn and the effect of the Peace.

I beg my Love to yourself and all my relations in America.

I am my Dear Sister,

Yours truly,

Benj^m West.